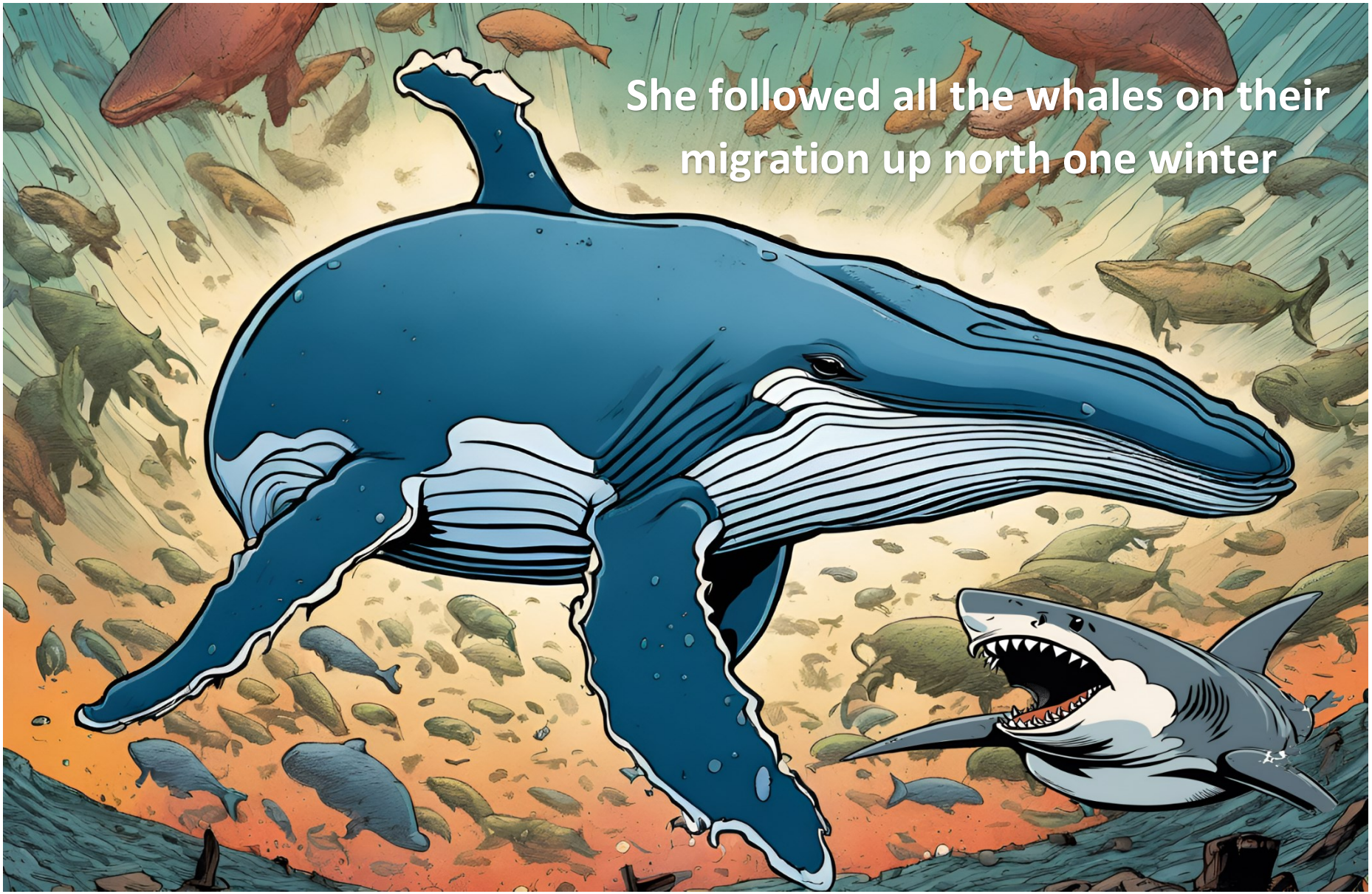
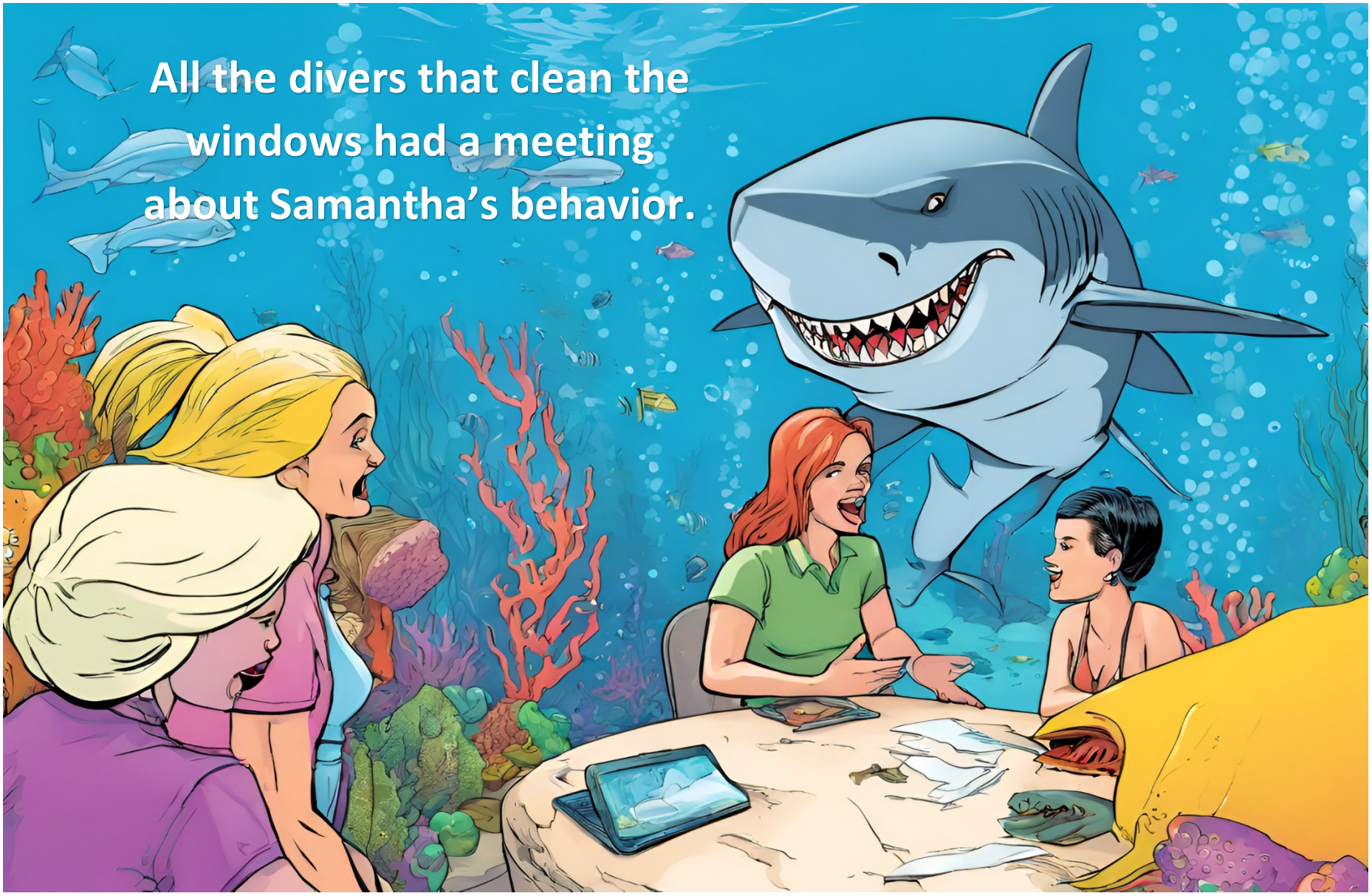
Saving Samantha
Courtesy of Bing
and DreamStudio
Samantha used to scare
seals at Macquarie Island


She followed all the whales on their
migration up north one winter

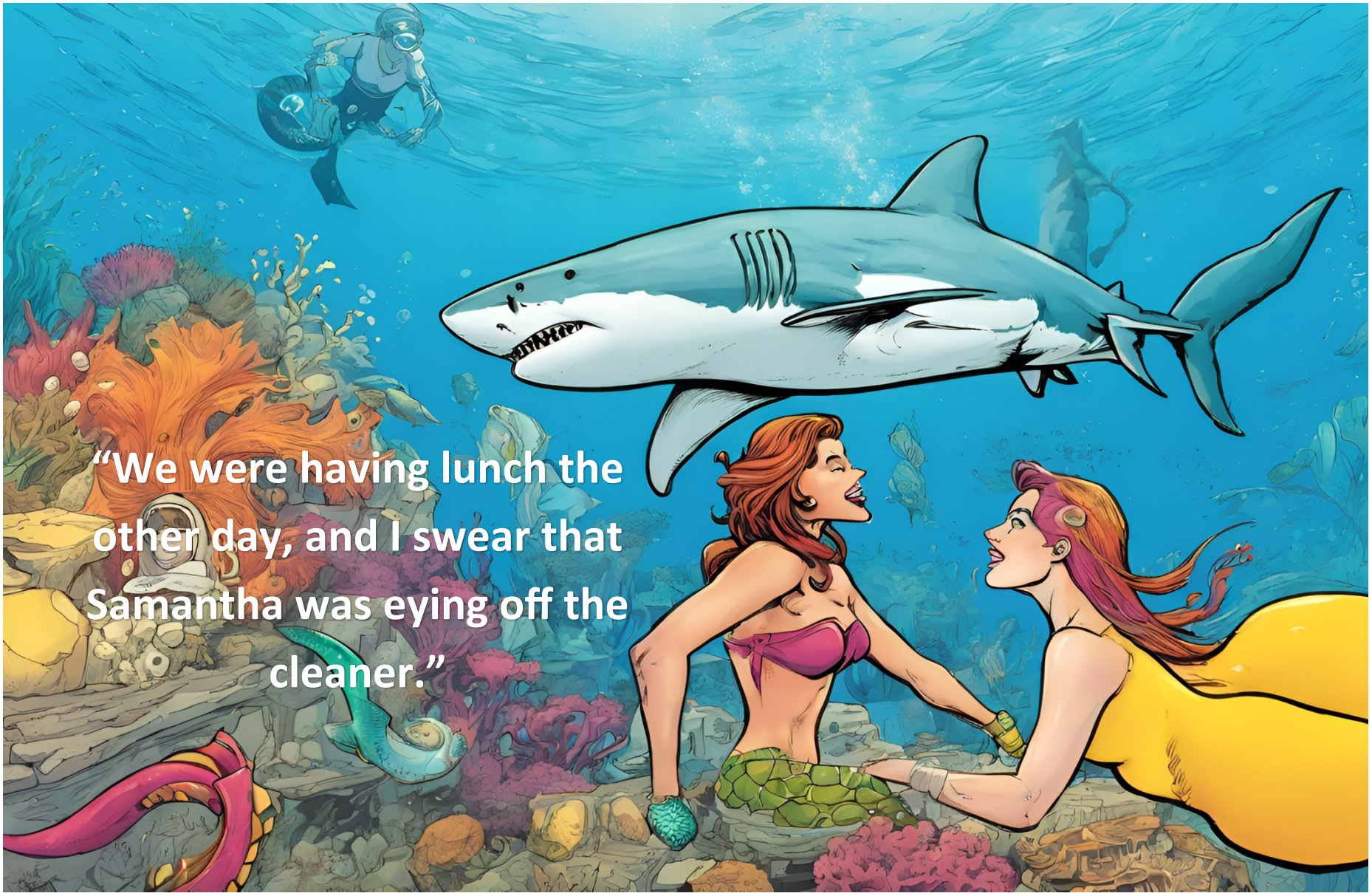
Samantha followed a fishing boat to Magnetic Island where she hoped to find fish caught in the nets.

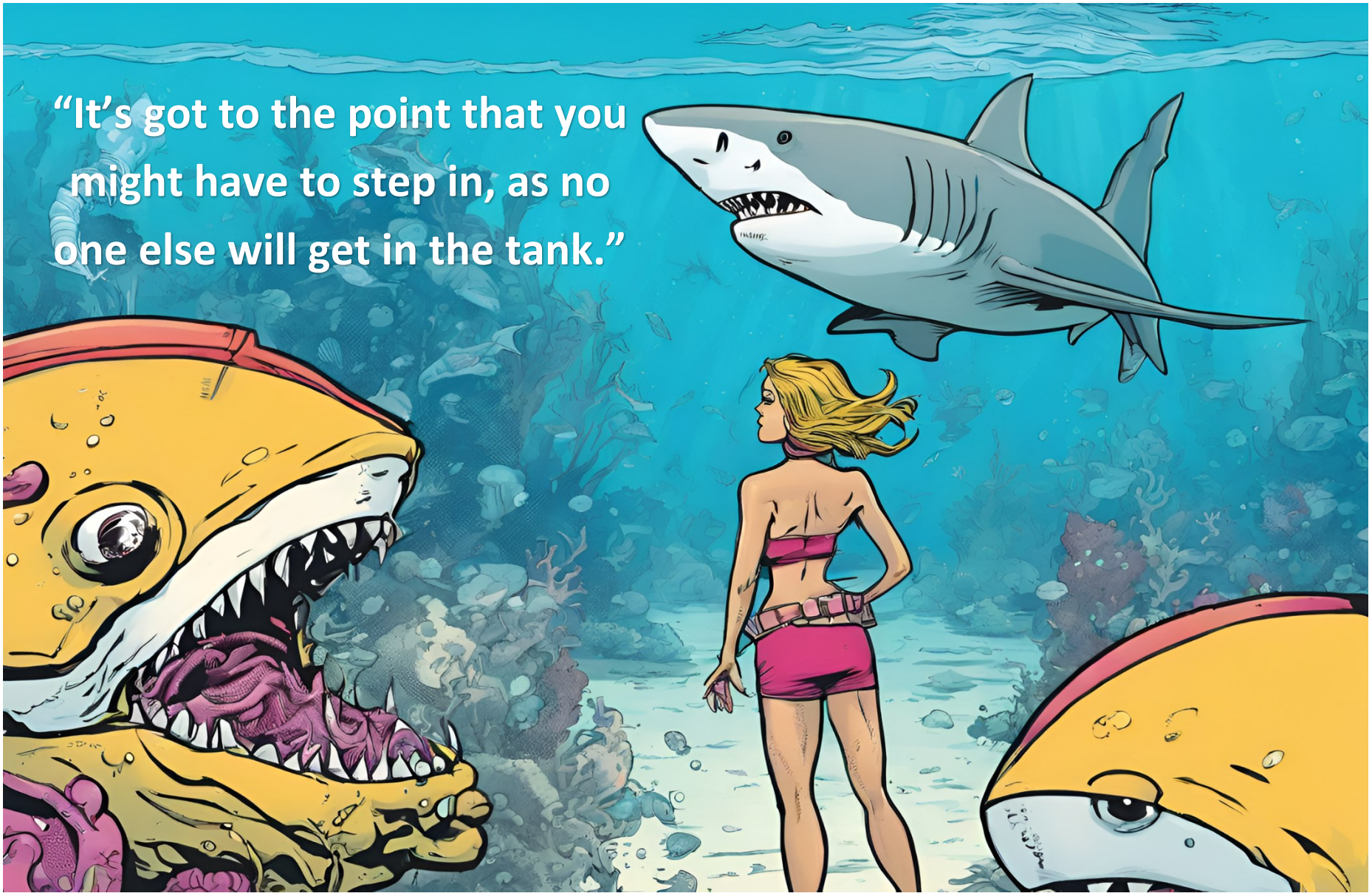
But just as she got there, she
was hooked on a baited line
and sent to ReefHQ

She was not happy with all the people watching as she was lifted into the aquarium


All the divers that clean the windows had a meeting about Samantha's behavior.

“I think that Samantha has grown way too big for ReefHQ,.”

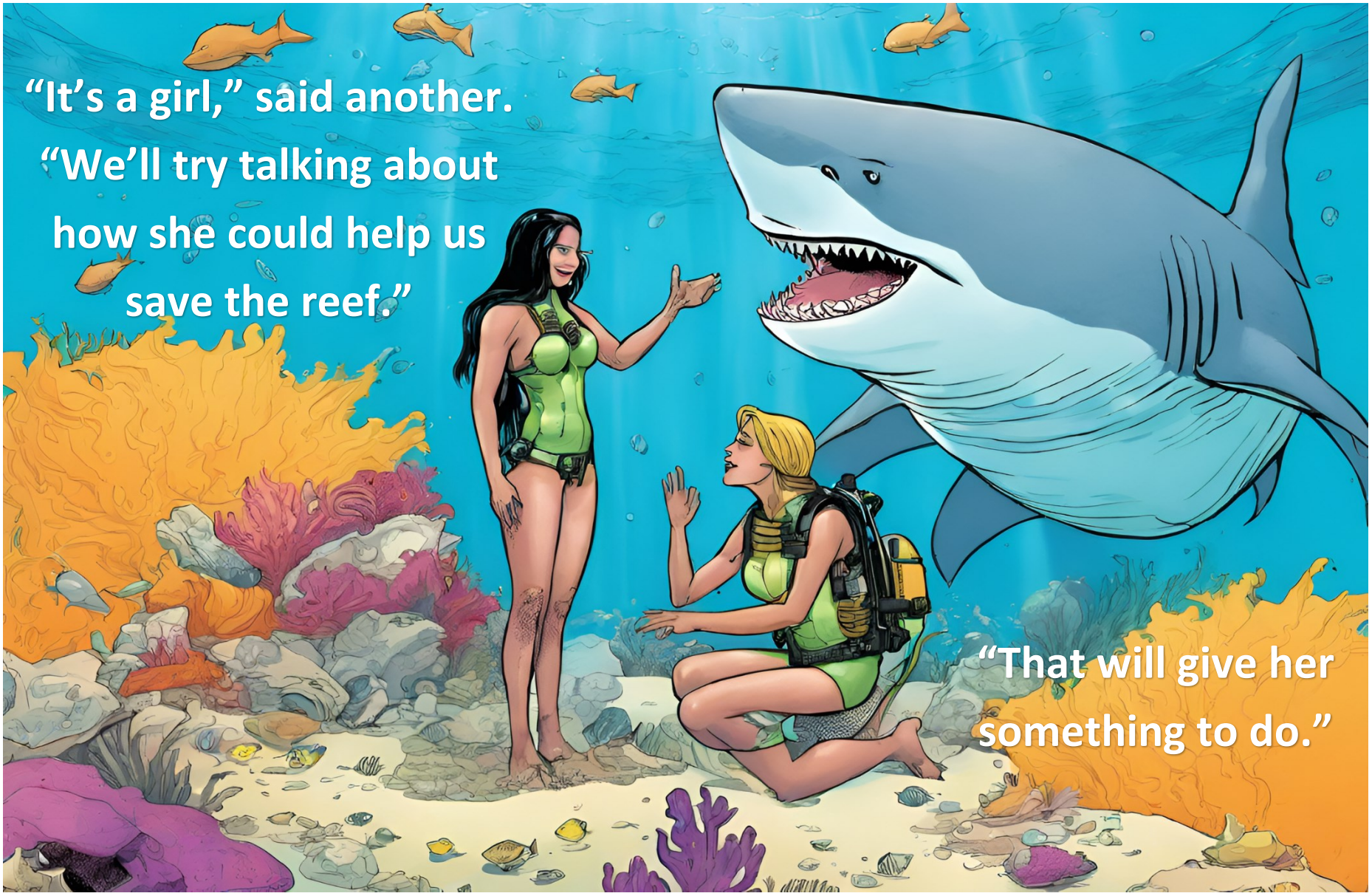

“We were having lunch the other day, and I swear that Samantha was eying off the cleaner.”

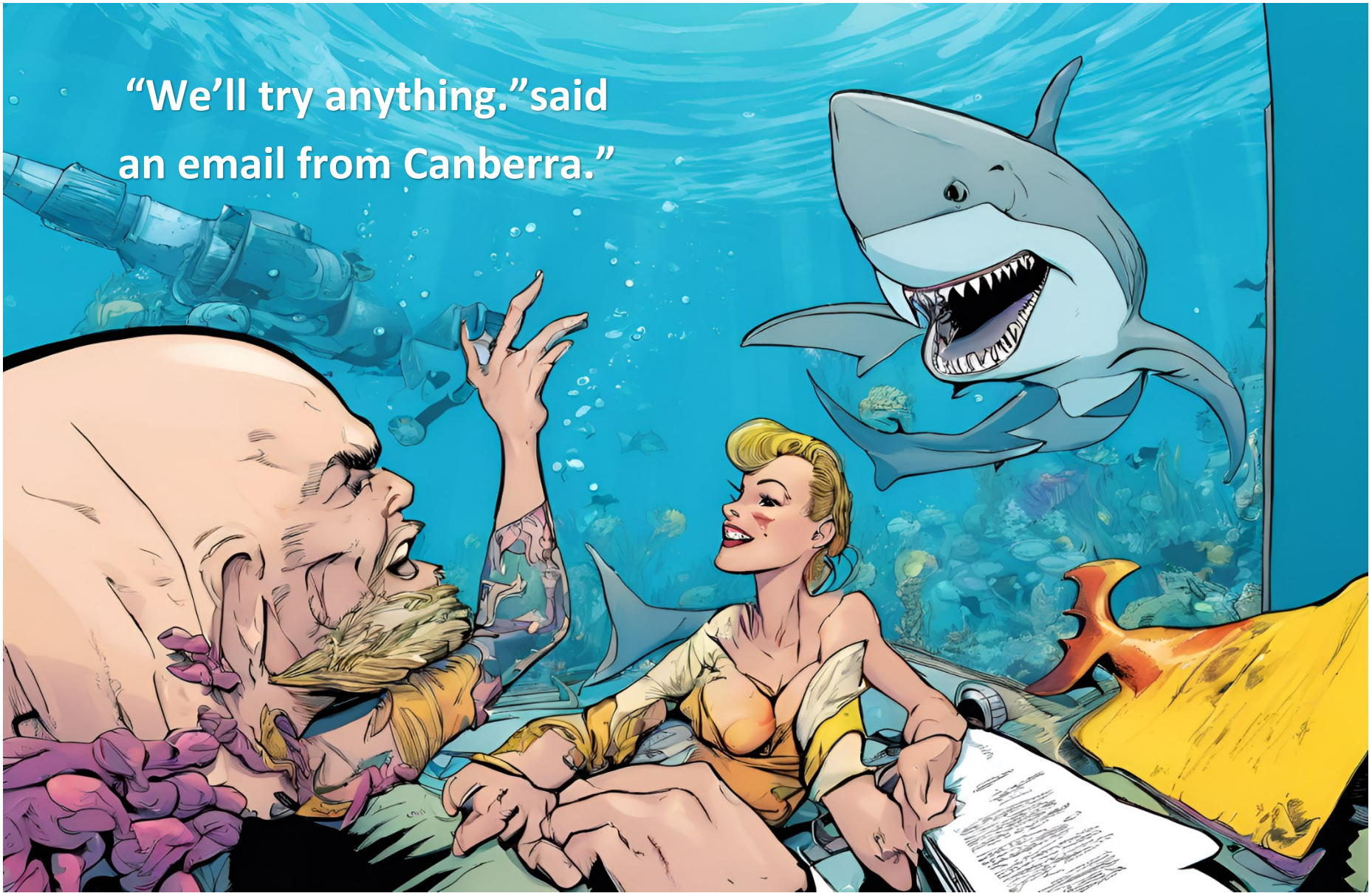

“It’s got to the point that you might have to step in, as no one else will get in the tank.”

“The protective suits don’t work. We’ve been through three divers this week alone.”

“I’ll go in,” said a brave worker who always had his eye on the reef.

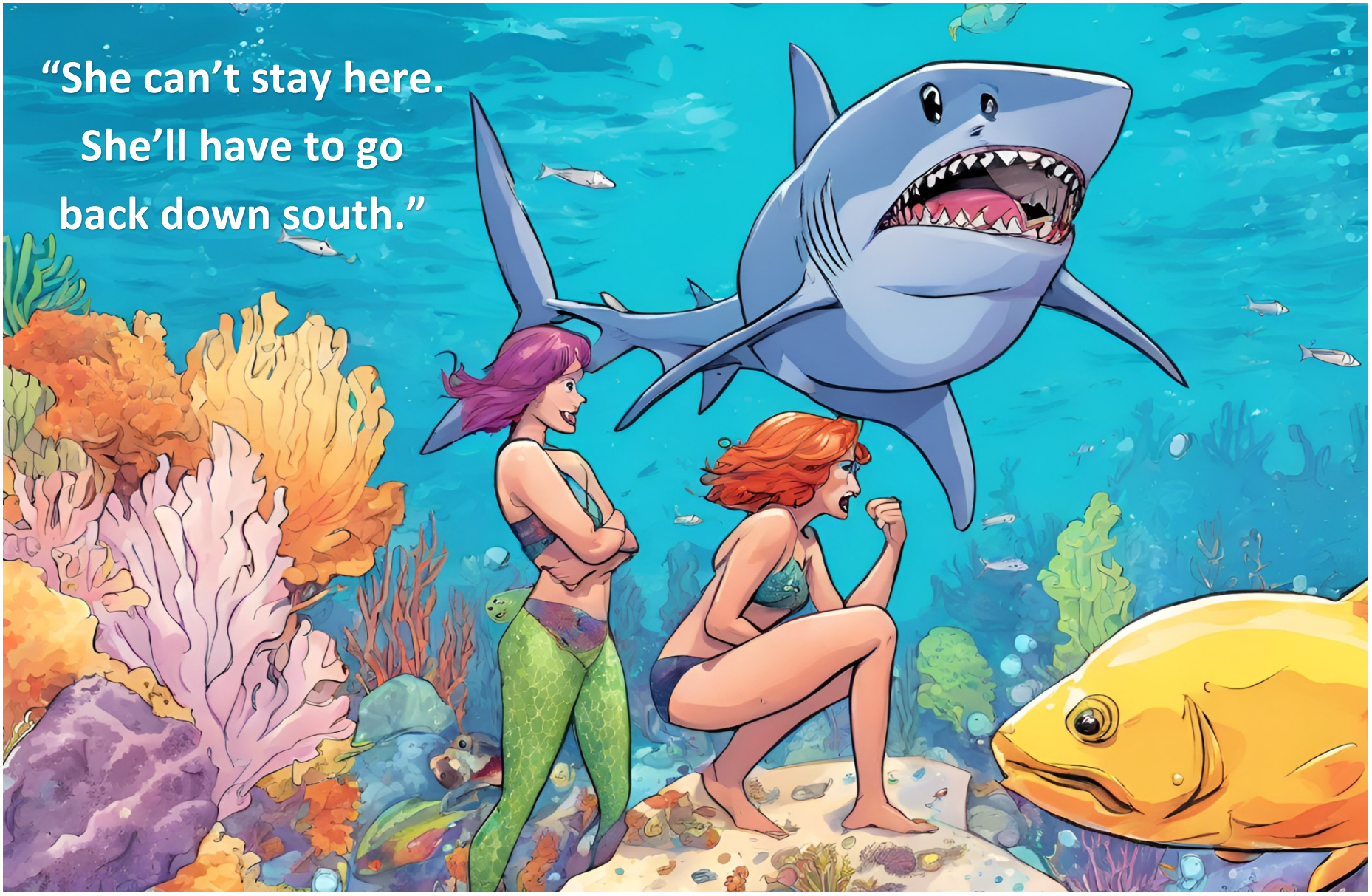
“Hurry up please, we need help here”.


"It's a girl," said another.
"We'll try talking about
how she could help us
save the reef."
"That will give her
something to do."


“We’ll try anything.”said
an email from Canberra.”

“It’s quite simple,” said Pretty Fish. “

“Build a monument to all the cleaners that we’ve lost.”


“She can’t stay here.
She’ll have to go
back down south.”

Samantha was loaded onto a large plane
and she was off to her new home.

“I prefer scaring seals to humans. Macquarie Island would have been my first choice.”

Saving Samantha.

In the vast, vibrant blue expanse of the Pacific Ocean, where the coral reefs burst with life and schools of fish dart about, lives our heroine, Samantha. Samantha isn't just any inhabitant of this bustling marine metropolis - she's a majestic shark, a sentinel of the sea, and a guardian.

But Samantha isn't alone in her mission. Alongside her is the Māori Wrasse and Giant Triton, other formidable predators of the coral reefs. These predators play a critical role in maintaining the balance of life under the sea. They keep the populations of all other species in check, ensuring the health and diversity of our marine ecosystems.

However, Samantha and her beloved home are in danger. The oceans, once teeming with life, are facing threats that could change them forever. It's up to us to help Samantha and ensure the survival of these underwater wonderlands.

"Saving Samantha" is more than just a story. It's a journey into the heart of the ocean, a call to action, and a testament to the power of conservation. As we dive into Samantha's world, we learn about the importance of every creature in our ecosystems, especially the predators, and the role we can play in protecting them. So, are you ready to make a splash and join Samantha on this exciting adventure? Let's dive in and enjoy courtesy of Bing and DreamStudio!

Samantha was a very large, fearsome shark who loved to chase and scare the seals at Macquarie Island. She was the biggest shark. Samantha was the queen of her domain and no other creature ever dared to challenge her. She enjoyed her life which was full of thrill and adventure, until one day, she made a terrible mistake.

It gets very cold at Macquarie Island, and she had decided to follow the humpback whales as they were migrating up north for the winter. Samantha would check each day if there were any seals that needed scaring as they went up the coast.

Eventually, after rounding a great sandy island after weeks of swimming, there was coral everywhere and she couldn't find any seals at all to scare. It was nothing like where she had come from which had seals and kelp everywhere. Samantha was totally lost.

She followed a small mackerel fishing boat that was heading towards Magnetic Island, hoping to snatch some easy prey from the nets that are off each of the bays. She did not notice the trap that was set for her at Nelly Bay, and soon she found herself entangled in a web of ropes and hooks. She struggled and thrashed, but it was no use. She was well and truly caught. She didn't have this sort of thing to worry about at Macquarie Island.

Luckily, the people who look after all of the protected species had arranged to put an alarm on all the lines and nets that would alert the authorities when something big like Samantha got caught. The alarm bells

went off at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and they swung into action and off to Nelly Bay on the island.

The fishermen who captured her were surprised and excited to see such a large and magnificent shark. After talking to the Authority people, they decided to sell her to ReefHQ, a public aquarium in Townsville, where she would be a star attraction. They loaded her onto a truck and drove her away to her new home.

Samantha was terrified and confused. She had never been out of the water for so long, and she did not know where she was going. She felt the truck stop and heard voices and noises. She felt herself being lifted and lowered into a huge tank. She saw strange shapes and colors around her. She felt dozens of eyes staring at her. She was in a new world.

She soon realized that she was not alone in the tank. There were other fish and creatures, some of them familiar, some of them not. She tried to assert her dominance, but she was met with resistance and hostility. She was not the queen here. She was an outsider.

She also noticed that there were humans who came into the tank from time to time. They wore strange suits and carried tools and brushes. They seemed to be cleaning the tank and the windows. Samantha did not like them. She remembered the humans who had captured her and taken her away from her home. She hated them. She decided to scare them away.

Every time she saw a human enter the tank, she would swim towards them and snap her jaws. She would circle them and bump them with her body. She would make them feel her presence and her power. She would make them fear her.

The humans did not appreciate Samantha's behavior. They were terrified of her and her sharp teeth. They tried to avoid her and calm her down, but she would not listen. She was relentless and aggressive. She made their job impossible.

The staff at ReefHQ noticed the problem and reported it to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the organization that oversaw the aquarium and its animals. They asked for advice and guidance on what to do with Samantha. They could not keep her in the tank if she was a danger to the staff and the visitors. They had to find a solution.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority discussed the issue and came up with three options:

- Option 1: Release Samantha back into the wild, but in a different location, away from Magnetic Island, where she would not cause trouble or get caught again. Perhaps Macquarie Island but that was a long way away.

- Option 2: Transfer Samantha to another aquarium, where she would have more space and less competition, and where she might be trained and conditioned to behave better.

- Option 3: Keep Samantha in the tank, but install a barrier or a divider that would separate her from the other fish and the humans, and provide her with enrichment and stimulation to reduce her stress and boredom.

They weighed the pros and cons of each option and debated the ethical and practical implications. They consulted with experts and stakeholders. They asked for public opinion and feedback. They took their time and considered every aspect.

Finally, they made their decision.

They chose option 2. They thought that releasing Samantha back into the wild would be too risky and irresponsible, as she might endanger other animals or humans, or get caught again by fishermen or poachers. They also thought that keeping Samantha in the tank would be too cruel and unfair, as she would be isolated and unhappy, and her aggression might worsen.

They decided that transferring Samantha to another aquarium would be the best option, as she would have a chance to adapt and improve, and maybe even make some friends. At least, it would no longer be their problem at ReefHQ.

They contacted a large and reputable aquarium in Canberra, next to Lake Burley-Griffin which agreed to take Samantha and provide her with the best care and environment possible. They arranged for a safe and comfortable transport for Samantha, and prepared her for her journey. They said goodbye to her and wished her well.

Samantha was not happy about the change. She did not want to leave her tank at ReefHQ, even though she did not particularly like it. She did not want to go to another place, even though she did not know it. She did not want to meet new people or animals, even though she did not trust them. She was angry and scared. She resisted and protested. She made a lot of noise and trouble. But she had no choice. She had to go. She arrived at her new home and was introduced to her new tank and her new companions. She saw a variety of fish and creatures, some of them bigger and more colorful than her.

She saw a huge and friendly whale shark, a graceful and curious manta ray, a playful and smart dolphin, and a gentle and wise turtle. She saw a lot of plants and corals and rocks and caves. She saw a lot of space and light and beauty.

She was amazed and intrigued. She felt a spark of curiosity and excitement. She felt a hint of hope and possibility. She decided to give it a try. She approached the other animals and greeted them. She explored the tank and discovered its secrets. She learned the rules and followed them. She listened to the trainers and obeyed them. She interacted with the visitors and entertained them.

She started to enjoy her life and appreciate her surroundings. She started to make friends and have fun. She started to behave better and feel happier. She started to change. She became Samantha the Seal Scarer, the friendly and popular shark, who loved to swim and play and smile. She became the star of the aquarium, and the favorite of the staff and the visitors. She became a legend and a hero, who inspired and educated people about sharks and the ocean.